

secutions have been successfully completed and action taken.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: As far as the textile mills are concerned, there are four categories of defaulters. The first one is the NTC mills which are the public sector undertaking, and the dues are from the pre-nationalisation period. The second is the category of mills where we have come into agreement with them and they have started paying on instalment basis. Therefore, the question of prosecution does not arise. There is a third category of mills where we have launched prosecution, but in the mean time they have gone to DIFR and they have been declared as sick mills, as a result of which we have not been able to proceed with the prosecutions. The fourth category of mills are those mills which do not fall under the above three categories and we are accordingly proceeding with our prosecutions.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker. Sir, from the reply it appears that these mills have been divided into three categories mainly. Some of them were nationalised and NTC took over the mills. And then his reply says that when claims were filed, in that case, the claims could not be realised because the funds left by the predecessor were not sufficient at all. These things always occur whenever the NTC take over the mills which are sick and therefore, my question is: (a) Will the Government, therefore, consider amending the law so that NTC when they take over the assets of the mills will also take over at least this liability of paying provident fund to the worker, and (b) From the reply it appears that you have got recovery machinery. But it is so weak that in some cases instalments are granted, in other cases prosecutions under the Indian Penal Code or prosecutions under Section 14 of this Employees' Provident Fund Act are being taken up. And it appears that those methods are very weak and not effective at all. Therefore, here also will

the Government consider giving more teeth to the authorities under the Employees' Provident Fund Act so that recoveries can be effectively made and the workers are not deprived of their provident fund?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATO-WAR: Sir, about the NTC mills, I have already stated that that was the case before September, 1989, because at that time it was the surcharge in the revenue. Now, with the amendment, we have included surcharge in the revenue so that the workers' provident fund gets priority. About the prosecution, we have started a recovery machinery from the year 1990 and we have set up an institution where we train our officers especially for the purpose of recovery. From our side we are doing our best to ensure that the workers do not suffer because of the closure of the mills.

SHRI RAM NAIK: After doing all these things, is there a single case where a person had been booked by the Court or had been given any punishment in the last two or three years?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, we do not have the detailed figures, but when I was in the Labour Ministry, we had taken very firm action.

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking whether it had concluded in punishment.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Yes, but I do not have the details now.

Industrial units in Orissa

*290. **SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrial units of Orissa have violated the guidelines issued by his Ministry in regard to setting up of industries which are causing pollution;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such defaulting industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Industrial units are required to obtain a consent to operate from the State Pollution Control Board, and there are reports of units in Orissa causing pollution.

(b) The pollution from industrial units in Orissa is particularly due to problems related to disposal of fly ash on land; ammonia, fluoride, chromium, phenol and mercury in effluents; and, particulate matter in emissions.

(c) The action taken by Government for control of pollution includes,

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) Networks of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iv) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirement of the State Pollution Control Boards to keep the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated limits;

(v) A time-bound action plan for control of highly polluting 17

categories of industries has been prepared in consultation with the State Governments and a Notification has been issued under which polluting units are required to meet the standards by December 31, 1991;

(vi) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and for the use of fly ash in construction material;

(vii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my question, I had specifically asked the names of the industries which are causing pollution. Will the Minister let the House know the names of the industries which are causing pollution and violating the guidelines issued by the Central Government as well as the State Pollution Control Boards?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pollution monitoring of industrial units come under the control of State Pollution Control Boards and those industries which are violating the guidelines, this information will be available with the State Pollution Control Boards. But to my knowledge a list of industries which has been brought to my notice which are violating the guidelines. They are, Talcher Thermal Power Plant, Thermal Power Station of NALCO, Fertiliser Corporation of India, Aluminium Smelters of NALCO, Orichem Ltd., Rourkela Steel Plant, Jayshree Chemicals and Orient Paper Mills. These are the industries which have come to our notice and the State Pollution Control Board had taken up with them the corrective steps they are required to take.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, in the reply, the hon. Minister

has stated that out of the 8 industries, 6 belong to the Government of India. We have discussed about Sabarnarekha earlier. It is incumbent on the industries concerned to obey the guidelines. Moreover, many private industries have followed the guidelines. Since the question is being asked in Parliament, there is no purpose in saying that it concerns the State Pollution Control Boards. So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will issue a direction to the industrial units which come under the direct control of the Central Government.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, private industries excepting certain highly polluting industries come under the State Pollution Control Boards and they are not required to come to Delhi. The public sector units, at the time of getting permission, do have to get environmental clearance from us. A time-bound action plan for control of highly polluting industries which come under these 17 categories had been prepared in consultation with the State Government. A notification under the Environment Protection Act has been issued. They have been asked to meet all the anti-pollution requirements by 31st of December, 1991.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in spite of the guidelines given by the Government of India and also by the State Pollution Board, pollution by way of discharge of effluents is continuing. Pollution is taking place to the river Ib at Brajraj Nagar by the discharge of effluents by Orient Paper Mill. Similarly, pollution is taking place to the river Ramnami in Talcher due to Fertilizer Corporation of India unit, which is a Government of India undertaking. Is it a fact that since the punishment provided for such violation is very very meagre, the people continue to create pollution with this type of activities? Since the punishment provided is meagre

and insignificant, since fine and penalty is very meagre, they prefer to continue with the same process rather than to spend money on remedial measures. What is the thinking of the Government with regard to this?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: With regard to the Fertilizer Corporation, a case has been filed under the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act and the Air Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1981 against the FCI unit at Talcher. It is a fact that there have been some complaints against Orient Paper Mills. There has been some colour found in the effluents. (*Interruptions.*) Mercury is found in the case of Jayshree Chemicals. If the hon. Member can inform us further about this case in this regard, I shall be very happy to take it up. In some other case, mercury has been found. In the case of Orient Paper Mills, specifically some colour has been found.

The hon. Member feels that the Environment Protection Act is not strong enough. It is not correct. There are very stringent penalties laid down under the Environment Protection Act. We shall take steps to look into the matter.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Pollution is continuing for decades creating havoc in the locality.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member has drawn our attention to this. Even if it comes under the State Pollution Board, I shall look at it on the basis of concurrent power with the Central Government. We would take effective steps.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that in case a Member of Parliament makes a complaint that such and such industry causes pollution and that the State Pollution Board is corrupt, the Central Government does

not pay any heed to his complaint. Would the Government take any action on the complaint made by Members of Parliament in its capacity as Central Government? Secondly, has any company been closed on account of any such action?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I do not want to make any comment on the allegation made by the hon. Member but I agree with his suggestion that the Central Pollution Board should also intervene in such matters. On the question of receiving any specific complaint from hon. Members, I would like to say that certainly action has been taken on it. There are certain examples.....(Interruptions).....

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I share their concern absolutely and unequivocally and I can assure that some action has been taken and will be taken if any hon. Member brings to my notice any case of pollution.

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAO-SAHEB TOPE: There are many industries which are running without any pollution treatment plants. I want to know whether Government is making it compulsory to put pollution treatment plants.

MR. SPEAKER: That is already done.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Many steps have been taken. The State Pollution Control Board has been advised. We are taking further steps in a manner to exercise greater control on industry.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOU-DHURY: I want to know how many years back was it brought to the notice of the Government the fact that 18 industries have been polluting the atmosphere and during this period, what action the Government of India has taken in each case.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The 17 high-polluting industries are not industrial units. These are industries. There is a List of 17 of them. Government has taken steps and a notification has been issued.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOU-DHURY: What type of industries are they? You have to mention them. Don't try to evade the question. My question is categorical. The reply should be categorical.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The question is categorical but scope is limited.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOU-DHURY: The hon. Minister should be honest to say that the information will be given.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There are 17 industries which have been identified 1½ years ago. I am sorry I cannot give the exact date now. Action has been taken against these highly polluting industries and a notification has been issued and they have been given time and I assure the hon. Member that we shall do more about it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Water Borne Diseases

[English]

*289. **DR. VISWANATHAM KANI-THI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the water borne diseases are on the increase in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to check the menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b)